



# Minutes of the General Business Meeting Winter Conference February 12, 2024

## **Opening**

The regular meeting of the CACVSO General Business Meeting was called to order on February 12, 2024, by President, Rhonda Murphy. Proceeding with Pledge of Allegiance by Harry Hitchings and Invocation by Scott Holwell.

## **Counties Present**

All counties were present at the time of roll call excluding Glenn, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Orange, San Benito, San Mateo, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Trinity.

## **New VSO/VSR Introductions**

We Welcomed: Ed Skelton, Merced; Joshua Zebley, Contra Costa; Greg Coffos, Riverside; Ralph Duarte, San Bernadino; Andrew Kirkorian, Kings; Kaitlyn Quigg, Yuba Sutter; Natasha King, San Joaquin; and Amy Klock, San Diego.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Discussion: None.

**Proposal:** Approve minutes submitted electronically October 23, 2023, for Fall Virtual Conference.

**Motion:** Terry Sanders

**Seconded:** Harry Hitchings

**Passed**

## **President Report** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: Welcomed everyone to the Winter Sacramento conference. Thank you, Rochelle Arnold and her staff, for hosting and also for the support of Marvin King, our co-host for this conference. Our training team has been working diligently to provide excellent sources of training for this in-person conference. She would like to thank Tammy Bender and her team.

As she has come to the end of her term as your President, she wanted to thank you for all the support that all have given her along the way. There is no way she could have done this without you. Thank you for electing her as your first female President and your support in letting the fight continue to assist our veterans and their families getting the benefits they deserve.

## **Committee Report** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: If you are interested in signing up for a committee, please see our Secretary Yvette Mason. Committees are truly the lifeblood of our organization and the means with which we manage projects and push the Association to a higher level.

**National Report** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: If you are still struggling to log into your NACVSO account please reach out to us and we can assist you to get it resolved. Basic benefits training classes which will be as follows:

Basic Benefits 2023: April 22-26, 2024 (registration will be open March 1, 2024; September 23-27, 2024 (Registration will be open by July 1); Advanced Appeals 2023: March 13-15, 2024, and December 4-6, 2024  
CVA 2023: Dec 13-14 If you have questions regarding national, please reach out to Marion at [execdirector@cacvso.org](mailto:execdirector@cacvso.org) for assistance.

The next National Conferences will be: Denver CO from 05/12 through 05/16/ 2024 (Registration is now open) 2025-Will be in Louisville KY (no dates have been published)

**Legislative Report** Chair, Scott Holwell

Discussion: *Handouts distributed prior to conference through email.* Reviewed Priority Legislation 2024, newly appointed Cal Vet Secretary, Proposition 1, Budget Chane Proposals, BCP Strategic Realignment for the Barstow Veterans Home, BCP Yountville Skilled nursing Facility Support, important upcoming legislative dates, updates from the California State Assembly and Senate and legislative team.

**Proposal:** Approve legislative report.

**Motion:** Ken Cruickshank

**Seconded:** Harry Hitchings

**Passed**

**By-Laws Report** Chair, Dell Pratt

Discussion: Wanted to clear up new VSR award. There is a provision for president to do urgent action item. Association requested Veteran Service Representatives to be recognized. Executive board enacted the award. It is not in bylaws. By laws committee will be working with citation committee to codify that to include name, scope, and criteria. Parliamentarian role is not an elected position and are the keeper of bylaws who works with committee chairs.

**Veterans Homes:** Chair, Deborah Esque

Discussion: *Provided power point.* Provided update on costs of residency, calculations for married couples, and admission updates for each veteran's home.

**Strategic Planning Report** Chair, Marvin King

Discussion: *Handout distributed prior to conference through email.* Reviewed mission statement, vision statement, value statements, ethics and code of conduct, ethical conduct and advocacy, continuous training and development, claim submission/representation, confidentiality and privacy, and professionalism and boundaries.

**Proposal:** Approve Ethic and Code of Conduct with modification to change second sentence to "Members are not required to file fraudulent or frivolous claim as defined by 38CFR for claims or claims that may harm our clients.

**Motion:** Scott Holwell

**Seconded:** Debra Esque  
**Passed**

**Proposal:** Approve Strategic Planning report  
**Motion:** Debra Esque  
**Seconded:** Joshua Christopherson  
**Passed**

**Hospitality/Raffle:** Chair, Chis Mancebo

Discussion: QR codes provided for hospitality and raffle; you can find on Whova and/or screen. This will streamline the process.

**Mentorship:** Chair, David West

Discussion: *Provided power point.* Mentor re-treat Santa Clara, CACVSO Mentorship Summit, 2024 priorities, CACVSO Support, and Continued efforts.

**Nominations & Elections Report:** Chair, Scott Holwell

Discussion: President -Marvin King, Yuba-Sutter County, and a nomination for David West by Darlene Escalante. 1st Vice President -Rochelle Arnold, Sacramento County-no additional nominees, now closed. 2nd Vice President -Morgan Boyd, San Luis Obispo County-no additional nominees, now closed. Sergeant at Arms -Harry Hitchings, Modoc County-no additional nominees, now closed. Trustees Proposal: One Year -Matt McCoy, Butte-no additional nominees, now closed. Two Year -Don Parsons, Colusa-no additional nominees, now closed. Three Yr -Kyle Pennington, Fresno-no additional nominees, now closed.

**Motion:** Approve slate of nominations.

**Motion:** Terry Sanders,  
**Second:** Chris Mancebo  
**Passed**

**Elections deferred to Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and Business meeting deferred until Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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**Deferred Business Meeting Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Counties Present**

All counties were present at the time of roll call excluding Glenn, Humboldt, and Lake.

**Deferred Nominations & Elections Report:** Chair, Scott Holwell

Discussion: Association Members Voted David West as president.

**Proposal:** To approve slate of officers by proclamation.  
**Motion:** Bob Johns  
**Second:** Jack Murphy

**Proposal:** To approve destruction of ballots.

**Motion:** Tom Siskiyau

**Second:** Alfred Simms

**Deferred:** The Meeting was deferred to Thursday, February 15th at pm.

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### **Deferred Business Meeting Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Counties Present**

All counties were present at the time of roll call excluding Glenn, Humboldt, and Lake, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Plumas, Riverside, and Sonoma.

#### **Cemetery Report:** Chair, Brian Galicia

Discussion: *Handout distributed prior to conference through email.* Highlighted Golden Gate Cemetery in San Bruno, CA, providing general information; Arlington National Cemetery eligibility changes and expansion.

#### **Homeless Report:** Chair, Alfred Sims

Discussion: Committee mission, duties, and the needs for members. Would like to involve supportive services, training for grants and NACO involvement.

#### **Executive Director Report** Chair, Marion Moses

Discussion: Whova app feedback, Website progress, and committee updates. The June Conference will be held at Cache Creek Resort in Brooks, CA.

#### **Treasurer Report** Financial Officer, Ted Puntillo

Discussion: Balances, budget usage, revenue, outstanding dues-none, new invoices coming out soon, registration rooms/fees, and balances for disaster relief and hospitality.

**Proposal:** To approve Treasurer's report.

**Motion:** Terry Sanders

**Seconded:** Al Simms

**Passed**

#### **Unfinished Business** President, Rhonda Murphy

Discussion: No unfinished business.

#### **New Business** Dean Kaufman

Discussion: PayScale, job descriptions, retaining, and training. Would like to gather job descriptions, layout of offices, vets in county, number of offices, VA installations, and collaborations in pursuit of equal pay across California.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned for February 15, 2024, at 4:50 pm. by President, Rhonda Murphy. The next General Business Meeting will be held during the Summer Conference.

**Proposal:** To Adjourn General Business Meeting.

**Motion:** Thomas Jackson

**Seconded:** Terry Sanders

**Passed**

Minutes submitted by: Yvette Mason